Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit for providing test and/or monitoring access to at least two telecommunication lines comprising at least one bus and at least two primary branches ~~extending therefrom~~, at least one of the primary branches being provided with at least one switch which in a first state connects the primary branch with the bus and in a second, normal state, when the primary branch is not in use, connects the primary branch with ground for draining any unintended signal on the primary branch to prevent the unintended signals from coupling to the bus, wherein at least one primary branch comprises at least two secondary branches, at least one of the secondary branches being provided with a second switch which, in a first state, connects the secondary branch with the primary branch.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1 comprising at least two buses, at least one of the primary branches being constituted by at least two sub-branches, each of the sub-branches being connected with one bus, and least one switch being provided for connecting a telecommunication line with a selected one of the buses.

4. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1 wherein at least one switch is a relay.

5. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1 wherein at least one switch is remotely controllable.

6. (Previously Presented) A system comprising at least one circuit according to claim 1 and at least one test or measurement device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of providing test or monitoring access to a telecommunication line, including a circuit comprising at least one bus and at least two primary branches ~~extending from the bus~~ each coupling to a telecommunication line each of the primary branches being, in an initial state, connected with ground, the method comprising the step of connecting only that primary branch through which access to a telecommunication line is to be established with the bus while the others of the at least two primary branches remain connected to ground for draining any unintended signal on the primary branch to prevent the unintended signals from coupling to the bus.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein at least one primary branch comprises at least two secondary branches, the secondary branches being, in an initial state, disconnected from the primary branch, the method comprising the step of connecting only that secondary branch through which access to a telecommunication line is to be established with the primary branch.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein at least one switch is remotely controlled.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the test serves to locate an open line.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the test serves to measure at least one physical parameter selected from the group consisting of voltage, frequency-dependent voltage and interfering voltage.

12. (Previously Presented) method according to claim 7 wherein the test serves to measure a response of the line to specific emitted signals.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of retro-fitting an existing test or monitoring system, comprising the steps of:

a) disconnecting at least one existing circuit for providing test or monitoring access, and

b) connecting at least one circuit for providing test or monitoring access, the circuit ~~in accordance with claim 1~~ comprising at least one bus and at least two primary branches, at least one of the primary branches being provided with at least one switch which in a first state connects the primary branch with the bus and in a second, normal state, when the primary branch is not in use, connects the primary branch with ground for draining any unintended signal on the primary branch to prevent the unintended signals from coupling to the bus, wherein at least one primary branch comprises at least two secondary branches, at least one of the secondary branches being provided with a second switch which, in a first state, connects the secondary branch with the primary branch.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of retro-fitting the existing test or monitoring system with at least one test or measurement device.